

Home Insect Identification Form (non-horticultural samples)

Due to reductions in county funding, Waukesha County UW-Extension is no longer able to process home insect pests. If you wish to have the insect identified, you may send it directly to the University of Wisconsin Insect Diagnostic lab in Madison. Please fill out this form as neatly as possible and send your insect sample to the address below.

Name: _____ Daytime Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Where was the insect found (be as specific as possible)?

That was the insect doing?

When did you first notice the insect (have you seen it before in certain areas or seasons)?

Submitting a sample:

Crushed, damaged specimens are very difficult to identify. Use mailing tubes, padded envelopes or sturdy boxes to prevent damage when shipping. **DO NOT PUT SPECIMENS ON TAPE.** Use cotton, or tissue paper for cushioning. Tape vial or film canister tops before shipping. Many specimens are damaged in transit if not cared for.

Hard bodied insects such as beetles and true bugs can be placed in a small clean vial. Put cotton or tissue paper inside the mailing tube with the specimen and increase its chances of arriving intact.

Soft-bodied insects such as aphids, caterpillars and other worms are best preserved in alcohol. Freezing or placing in very hot water can kill specimens. Seventy percent ethanol is best but rubbing alcohol, or clear cocktail alcohol like gin or vodka works in a pinch.

Adult moths and mosquitoes have scales on the wings that are needed for identification. They need to be kept dry. Do not crush. Place carefully in a vial or tub. Cushion during transit.

Mail to: **Insect Diagnostic Lab**
 240 Russell Labs
 1630 Linden Drive
 Madison, WI 53706